

Fall/Winter 2023-2024



CITY NEWSLETTER FALL PROJECTS

Volunteers Needed For Tree Planting

The City of Montrose is looking for volunteers to help plant trees throughout the city to help celebrate Arbor Day on October 6th.

The month of October has been designated NeighborWoods Month - 31 days focused on planting and caring for community trees and making communities greener and healthier.

The event will kickoff at 8:45 a.m. at Lion's Park and volunteers will plant approximately twenty trees. Please wear closed-toe shoes, gloves and bring a shovel if you have one. Event occurs rain or shine no experience necessary. See you there! For more information please call the City Offices or visit cityofmontrose.us



Elected City Officials

Colleen Brown, Mayor

Mark Richard, Mayor Pro-Tem

Robert Arnold, Council Member

Aaron Burch, Council Member

Ryan Heslop, Council Member

Andrea Martin, Council Member

Todd Pangle, Council Member

Appointed City Officials

Neil Rankin, City Manager

Christina Rush, City Clerk

Jennifer Whiting, City Treasurer

Janet Loomis, Utilities

Sam Spence, DPW Supervisor

Robert Naumann, Assessor

Matt Leoni, Building Inspector

Dave Sova, DDA Chair

Ray Foust, Planning Chair

City of Montrose

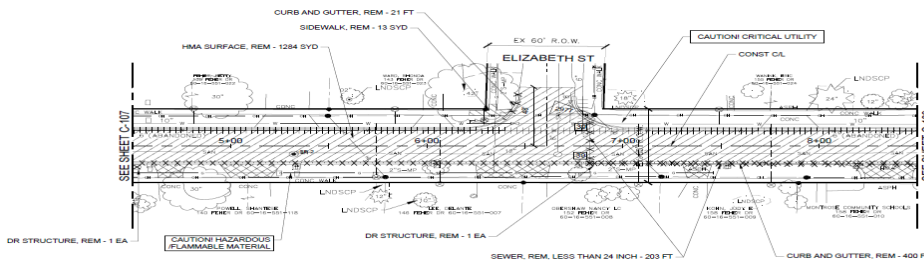
139 S. Saginaw Street

Montrose, MI 48457

Phone 810.639.6168

www.cityofmontrose.us

Feher Drive Reconstruction Set For This Fall



City Council at the August 17th regular meeting voted to approve the reconstruction of Feher Drive. Work will be starting after Labor Day with a completion date of November 10th. This project will include the replacement of storm sewer structures, curb, base aggregate and new detectable warning surfaces on sidewalk approaches. Driveway access will be maintained for local traffic during construction. School traffic has been rerouted to make easier for the drop-off at Carter Elementary. Please use caution when driving through this construction zone.

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Online Payment Info

The City of Montrose has contracted with companies; "BS&A Software" and "Point and Pay" to offer you the option to pay a bill online at your convenience with a credit card. **There is a minimal convenience charge for online payments however to access your account is free of charge.**

On this page you will be able to look up your bill and/or pay it online. This includes: Utility Bill Water/Sewer, Property Tax Bill, Assessing (Property Parcel)

A Quick Tutorial To Access Your Online Account

Click on the following hyperlink on the City's main page at cityofmontrose.us

Access Online Services! [Click Here](#) for more information

You can also go to AccessMyGov page at <https://accessmygov.com/?uid=1161>

1. Find your record using the search options at the top of the screen. For a more detailed discussion of the search capabilities, please see <http://www.accessmygov.com/Documents/AMGBasics.pdf>. For this example, we'll search by owner name (Smith):

The screenshot shows the AccessMyGov search interface. At the top, there's a search bar with 'All Records' selected under 'Search:' and 'Name' under 'By:'. The search term 'smith' is entered. Below the search bar, there's a sidebar with 'ONLINE SERVICES' including 'Internet Services', 'All Record Search', 'Assessing Search', 'Building Department Search', 'Current Tax Search', 'Property Sale Search', 'Utility Billing Search', 'Online Payments', and 'Building Department Payments'. The main content area shows 'Search Results for "smith" using the Name Search in Assessing, Building Department, Tax, and Utility Billing'. It includes a message: 'Not finding what you are looking for? Try refining your search to narrow your results or changing your search type.' Below that, it says 'Sort By: Name | Display Style: List View | Want more search result detail? Click to the left to change your Display Style'. A table displays the results, showing 'BANKS, RONALD K & DEBORAH A SMITH' with a reference number '046-040-900-250-00 (Parcel Number)' and address '10860 KNOCKADERRY DR'. The table indicates 'Displaying items 1 - 15 of 146' and 'Records Per Page: 15'.

2. Click on your parcel record from the Search Results screen. If your parcel isn't found, broaden your search criteria by removing some details such as First Name, or search by the Address or the Parcel Number instead.

3. Once you are on the Parcel Details screen, two options are presented to view details. This help document covers Option 1:

Option 1: I am the homeowner of this record. (No Charge)

Homeowners can view their information **free of charge** please click the below button to proceed. Please note that once an AccessMyGov account has viewed their records for free, they will no longer be able to view other properties for free.

Note: You must have an AccessMyGov account in order to access your information for free, please [click here](#) to create a new account.

[Access this Record for free](#)

4. To access your record for free, it is important that you create an account and log in which you must click here to register. After you enter you create a username and password you will be prompted with the question.

The screenshot shows a dialog box titled 'Question' with a question mark icon. The text inside asks: 'Do you wish to continue with setting yourself as the owner of this record? There are a limited number of records you are allowed to associate your account with for free.' At the bottom, there are two buttons: 'Yes' and 'No'.

Click yes. The details of the parcel record become available. As long as the Owner Name of this record doesn't change, you will have 24/7 access to make payments.

Montrose Office Staff are here to help if you have any questions or issues to create your account. It's a great way to save time and money.

The City Assessor Robert Naumann will be sending notices to properties in the city to re-inspect twenty percent of its parcels. This is a requirement by the State of Michigan and the City wishes to be compliant with the Audit of Minimum Assessing.

The assessor will take measurements of the exterior of the home and all structures on the property including: sheds, decks, porches, garages, utility buildings, pools, or any other structure erected on a property. The assessor will not enter your home.

The assessor can help answer questions. If you have any questions feel free to call the City Offices at 639-6168 ext. 5

December Tax Board of Review

The authorities of the July and December Board of Review are detailed in MCL 211.53b. July and December Board of Review meetings are held to hear appeals of Principal Residence Exemptions, Qualified Agricultural Property Exemption, Poverty Exemptions, Disabled Veterans Exemptions, and Qualified Errors including clerical errors and mutual mistakes of fact. Either the assessor or a taxpayer may petition for consideration. It should be clear that the July and December Boards of Review have no authority over exemption disputes other than they may hear petitions for new exemptions.

December Board of Review

Will be held on

December 12th at 5:00 p.m.

Did you know?

The City is always looking for residents to serve on its various boards including the Tax Board of Review, Zoning Board of Appeals & Planning Board. Pick up an application from the city office and the staff can help you find a way to serve your community!

MONTROSE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS NEWS



Between the months of November 1st and April 1st, no person shall park a motor vehicle on any street between the hours of 3:00 a.m. and 6:00 a.m., or those days when an accumulation of snow requires that the city snowplows and clears such streets. When a snow emergency is issued no motor vehicle shall be parked along a city street. This information is posted on the city website before a predicted snow storm with significant accumulation.

Did you know?

The DPW prioritize plow routes for snow removal starting first with school bus routes, followed by other residential areas and lastly alleys and city parking lots.

A Few Fall/Winter DPW Tips

- Hydrant flushing to begin this fall. This will help ensure hydrants are maintained and flush out any rust or sediment. If your water is discolored just run it for a while and it should eventually run clear.
- Be sure you know the location of the water shutoff valve in your home. Check it periodically to ensure it works properly.
- Homeowners are responsible for the removal of snow and ice on sidewalks within 48 hours of a snow event. Homeowners are also responsible to remove snow around hydrants so they are visible and available.
- Our DPW prides itself on its safety record. This summer look out for the neon green vests Montrose DPW employees will be wearing as they crack seal and patch streets. Please slow down and move over when you see them working.
- Insulate pipes in unheated parts of your house. Be alert if you have had frozen pipes in the past. Heat tape and additional insulation are a low cost investment compared to a flooded crawlspace or basement.
- No person shall pile, dump or place snow, ice or any other material on any sidewalk or public street in the city. Snow or ice shall not be plowed or moved across a public street or otherwise disposed of in any other place or in a manner so as to create a safety hazard to the people of the city.

CLERK'S CORNER

ELECTION

Tuesday, November 2nd

Polls are open from 7:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.

What is on the ballot?
Am I registered to vote?
Please Visit
www.michigan.gov/vote

For other election questions please feel free to contact the City Clerk.

Are You Registered To Vote?

To register to vote, you must be all of the following:

A U.S. citizen

At least 18 years old by Election Day

A resident of Michigan

A resident of the city or township where you are applying to register to vote. If you want to check to see if you are registered, visit **www.Michigan.gov/vote** and/or view your sample ballot

If you meet those following requirements and live in the City:

Get to the city clerk's office and bring your State ID or Driver's License.

Fill out voter registration form.

Keep it in your wallet or purse so you know where to go to cast your ballot.

For City Electors the Precinct is located at the City Offices at 139 S. Saginaw .

It's now easier to vote!

- You can register to vote and cast your ballot on the same day, including election day.
- Adults are automatically registered to vote when they apply, renew or update their driver's license or state identification card.
- To vote absentee, you won't have to explain why you can't make it to the polls.



CITY OF MONTROSE NOVEMBER ELECTION November 7, 2023

Public Safety Millage Renewal Proposal Language

PUBLIC SAFETY MILLAGE

"Shall the City of Montrose be authorized for a period of five years beginning on July 1, 2024 to renew a public safety millage of 3.846 mills per \$1,000 of taxable valuations of state taxable value which is estimated to produce \$121,095.13 of collections in the first year and would be exclusively used for contracted public safety services?"

YES NO

BACKGROUND

For more than 35 years the City of Montrose has contracted fire and police protection from Montrose Township. The arrangement has been beneficial in terms of service and cost for both units of government.

At the November 2018 election the residents of the City of Montrose approved the first ever public safety millage. This millage was meant to create a dedicated source of funding and offset the increasing costs while restoring reduced services.

Prior to approval of the public safety millage the operating millage/General Fund covered all costs of the public safety contract. Over time it became more difficult for the city to address larger city projects and improvements as the general "rainy day" fund covered an increasing amount of the contract. By 2016 the public safety contract was 47% of the general fund budget and the new contract would have increased that percentage. Steps were taken by council in April 2017 to approve a contract that would re-prioritize emergency and non-emergency calls in order maintain previous funding levels. However, this resulted in reduced services and required residents to file complaints and non-emergency issue at the township offices.

Since being approved in 2018 the 4.00 mills has been reduced due to the Headlee Amendment in three of the five years the millage has been levied. The revenue from the millage has covered roughly one third of the public safety contract costs allowing the city to address many project and improvements while providing public safety services city residents have come to expect.

This ballot proposal is a renewal and is not a new millage. If renewed this millage would continue to be a dedicated source of revenue to fund police and fire protection services. This revenue offsets the cost of the public safety contract that provides funding for Montrose Township firefighters and police officers including wages, benefits, supplies, equipment and training.



Montrose Township Fire Department training at a city owned property with other neighboring fire departments in 2020.

FACT:
The 2023 contract for Police and Fire Protection for the City is \$390,000 or 45% of the City Budget.

FACT:
In 2022 there were 18 felony arrests, 63 traffic violations and 18 accidents in the city.

FACT:
The Montrose Fire & Police Dept. has a response time in the City under 6 minutes.

FACT:
The City has implemented a cost recovery ordinance to offset the cost of Fire Protection

FACT:
In 2022 the Montrose Township Police responded to almost 700 radio calls in the city.

Q&A In everyday language what does the Proposal say?
This would approve a millage of 3.8460 for a period of five years. As a property owner, you could calculate the cost by taking the taxable value or TV on your Notice of Assessment document multiplied by the millage rate and divided by 1,000.

Q&A What will happen if the proposal passes?
The city will continue with the current level of public safety services provided by the Montrose Township Police and Fire Departments. This includes 24/7 police and fire protection. Additionally, the police provide fingerprinting/background services, firearm sales applications, vehicle unlocks and vacation checks.

Q&A What will happen if the proposal fails?
City council may reevaluate the current Public Safety Contract to ensure the "rainy day" fund stays healthy. Local units of government have certain constitutional duties such as conducting elections, assessing that utilize general fund dollars. These services cannot be delegated to another local unit. Additionally, many future projects and purchases may be eliminated or reduced.

Q&A What steps has the City or Township taken to offset rising public safety costs?
The city council has provided letters of support for state grants for the purchase of fire equipment. The Township has also been awarded a school resource officer grant that provides additional staffing during the summer months when school is not in session. The Fire Dept. in 2022 received funding for an enclosed equipment trailer from the Jennings Foundation.

Q&A Why is this on a ballot?
The current millage will expire at the end of the year after being approved for the last five years. City Council placed it on the November ballot as long as it was not the only proposal for election cost savings.

Q&A Why does the Police & Fire services cost so much?
Montrose Township operates a full time police department and a volunteer fire department with annual budget just under \$1 million. This includes wages/benefits for employees, insurance, maintenance for equipment, fuel, training and many other related costs.

Recently the Township utilized ARPA funds to purchase a new firetruck that will delivered this year. This piece of equipment costs over \$850,000 and will replace one that is almost 40 years old. It can also cost over \$13,000 to outfit just one firefighter.

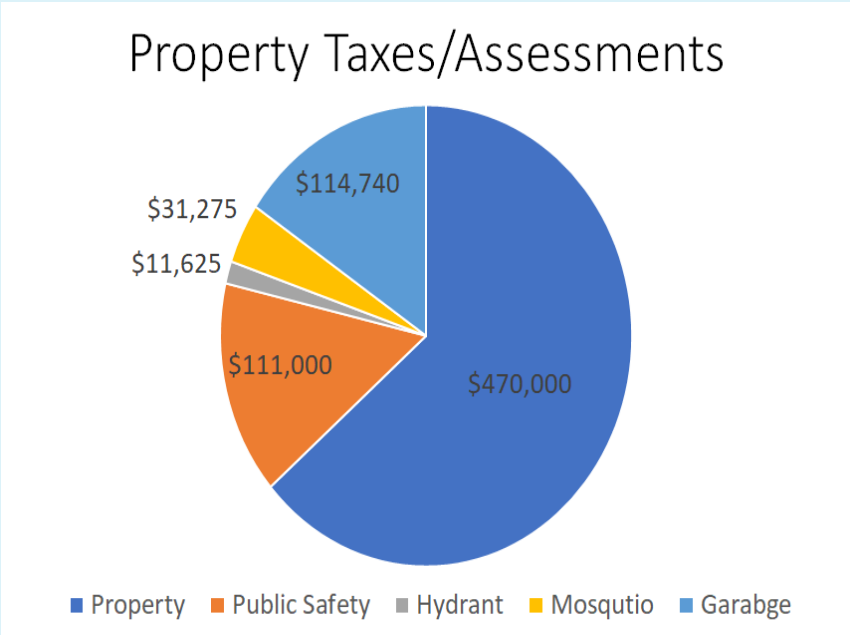
The police department must also maintain a fleet of vehicles. A new police vehicle being completely outfitted with lights, computers and other necessary equipment can cost over \$60,000.

Other police department costs include technology and software to connect with state agencies, uniforms, equipment and support staff. For example just one ballistic vest can cost upwards of \$2,000.

Over the last decade the pool of candidates seeking employment with police and fire departments nationwide has shrunk. Wages and benefits have to be competitive to attract and retain employees.



Q&A What is the breakdown on our taxes and assessments. Can others assessments be used to pay for public safety?



No. Hydrant, mosquito and garbage can only be used to pay for those services. Unassigned "rainy day" funds from the general fund can be used for public safety which is roughly \$260,000. A dedicated millage allows the city the flexibility to budget for other projects and purchases.

Just in the last four years the public safety millage has allowed the general fund to:

- Leverage grant dollars to improve Blueberry Park
- Purchase new DPW equipment
- Put a new roof on the DPW garage
- Construct an outdoor salt storage bin
- Replace broken fixtures at Lion's Park restroom

Q&A Bottom line...what will the Public Safety Millage cost?

Estimated Market Value	Taxable Value (TV)	Millage Rate	Estimated Property Tax
\$75,000	\$37,500	3.846	\$144.23
\$84,284 *	\$42,192	3.846	\$162.27
\$100,000	\$50,000	3.846	\$192.30
\$150,000	\$75,000	3.846	\$288.45
\$200,000	\$100,000	3.846	\$384.60
*average market value in Montrose			

FACT:
The Montrose Township Fire Department responded to 18 medical calls in 2022.

UTILITIES-WATER-SEWER-PERMIT INFORMATION

Sign Up For Our Automatic Bill Payment Program

- No checks to write
- No postage to pay
- No trip to the City Office
- Out of town? Your bill will be paid on time

How Do I Sign Up? Forms are at the city office.

Is there a charge? No, there is no fee for the service.

Will I still receive a bill? Yes. We recommend going paperless.

When will payment be deducted? All payments will be automatically withdrawn from your designated account on the 25th of each month.

What if there isn't enough money in my account?

If there are insufficient funds in your account, your payment will be reversed, an NSF fee and penalty fee will be applied and be reflected on the next bill.

Can I unenroll? Yes, you will need to notify the city in writing.

2024 Water/Sewer Information

Billing Period	Date Billed	Date Due	Shutoff Date
12/10 to 1/9	January 10	January 25	2/8/24
1/10 to 2/9	February 12	February 26	3/7/24
2/10 to 3/9	March 11	March 25	4/8/24
3/10 to 4/9	April 10	April 25	5/8/24
4/10 to 5/9	May 10	May 28	6/6/24
5/10 to 6/9	June 10	June 25	7/8/24
6/10 to 7/9	July 10	July 25	8/8/24
7/10 to 8/9	August 12	August 26	9/9/24
8/10 to 9/9	September 10	September 25	10/8/24
9/10 to 10/9	October 10	October 25	11/7/24
10/10 to 11/9	November 11	November 25	12/9/24
11/10 to 12/9	December 10	December 26	1/8/25

*Dates are subject to change without notice

Be Our Guest!

Host your next family or special event at Blueberry Park, Lions Park or at the Depot. Rental reservation applications are on a first-come/first-serve basis. No reservations are permitted during the annual Blueberry Festival which is the third week in August (2nd Sunday through 3rd Sunday). Applications are available at City Hall and are just \$10.00 for the parks and \$65.00 for the Depot.

Dump Pass and Hazardous Waste

If you are planning to do some Spring cleaning please take advantage of your free monthly dump pass (1 per residential household per month). This valid pass at Brent Run Sanitary Landfill located at 8247 Vienna Rd. in Montrose Township allows up to 5 yards of solid waste. This pass does not include hazardous waste, whole tires, liquids, stone, rock or dirt or any other materials banned from Michigan Landfills. Trailers need to be covered. Landfill is open Monday-Friday 7am-3pm.

Burn Permits Are Available

Planning to have a campfire or burn those leaves? Make sure you have a burn permit. Permits are free and available at the city office. For more details please call or stop by the city office.

Upcoming Holidays & Happenings

THE CITY OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED

NOVEMBER 23 & 24 – THANKSGIVING DAY & THE FRIDAY AFTER THANKSGIVING
 DECEMBER 22 & 25 CHRISTMAS EVE/CHRISTMAS DAY
 DECEMBER 29 NEW YEARS EVE
 JANUARY 1, 2024 NEW YEARS DAY
 JANUARY 15, 2024 MLK DAY



Code Enforcement Enforcing Blight Ordinances

City staff will be working this Fall to ensure the blight ordinances are being enforced. The "Blight Ordinances" are meant to; Prevent areas of the City that are, or may become, blighted with the resulting impairment of taxable values.

Door hangers will inform residents of a suspected violation, followed up by a letter and if necessary the issue of a citation.

Blight includes:

- Vehicle Storage, Repair and Abandonment
- Litter, rubbish, junk. Storage and Disposal
- Noxious Weed and Growth (tall grass)

Just A Reminder

The parking of motor vehicles upon the area between the curb of the street and the sidewalk shall be forbidden. (Ord. No. 394, § 4, 8-14-2007) In single-family residential, multiple-family residential, mobile home residential, commercial and industrial districts, the required front yard setbacks shall not be used for off-street parking and shall remain as open space unoccupied and unobstructed from the ground upward except for landscaping, plant materials, or vehicle access drives. All yards abutting public streets shall be considered as front yard for setback purposes. (Article 3 Sec. 3.7)



MSHDA MI-HOPE GRANT

Michigan State Housing Development Authority has awarded the City of Montrose \$300,000 through the Michigan's Housing Opportunities Promoting Energy-Efficiency (MI-HOPE) Program. MI-HOPE is a federally funded program utilizing United States Department of Treasury American Rescue Plan (ARP) Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF). This grant program is designed to encourage energy-efficiency focused residential housing repairs and upgrades to owner-occupied homes.

Eligible grant applicants could be awarded up to \$25,000 towards energy-efficiency improvements to their properties without requiring a repayment of grant funds nor a lien on the property.

To learn more about the MI-HOPE program visit <https://arp.michigan.gov/p/ARP/Home> or



Program guidelines are available at the city office. Applications are available only online.

THE MONTROSE
DOWNTOWN
DEVELOPMENT
AUTHORITY
INVITES YOU
TO ATTEND ITS

*Do you own a
business or looking
to start a business in
the Montrose
Community?*

This event is for you!

Lenders, planners,
economic
development
managers and local
leaders will be
available to answer all
your business
questions.

SMALL BUSINESS WORKSHOP

Learn about the many opportunities to
start, invest and grow your business.

OCTOBER 3, 2023

6:00-8:00 p.m.

Montrose Depot
154 W. State Street

Topics include:

- Business Planning & Growth
- Market Research
- Access to Capital and Legal Resources
- Funds For Building Upgrades/Rehab
- And Much More...

*Spend an evening and hear from representative from these organizations while
enjoying appetizers and refreshments at the historic Montrose Depot.*



Questions?

(810) 639-6168

manager@cityofmontrose.us



OFFICE OF
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



Michigan
SBDC





**William N. Middlebrook Hardware Located At The
Corner of State and Genesee Street circa 1900.**

**To Learn More About The History of The Montrose Community Visit The
Montrose Historical and Telephone Pioneer Museum**

City Council Meetings

All other meetings are posted outside of the City Offices and online at www.cityofmontrose.us

The City Offices will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services for the hearing impaired, audio recordings of printed material being considered at the meeting, to individuals with disabilities at the meeting (and/or hearing) upon 3 working days notice to the City of Montrose.

City of Montrose
139 S. Saginaw Street
Montrose, MI 48457